

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

June 14, 2022

Resolution to Prohibit Los Angeles County Contracts with Sterigenics US Inc.

In early May 2022, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Sterigenics US, Inc. (Sterigenics) for failure to maintain its air pollution control system in good operating condition and other permit issues, as well as a Proposition 65 Notification for elevated ethylene oxide emissions from the facility. Although Sterigenics remains out of compliance and continues to emit elevated levels of ethylene oxide, SCAQMD is allowing the facility to continue to operate.

Sterigenics uses ethylene oxide to sterilize medical equipment. Exposure to ethylene oxide can irritate the eyes and respiratory system and damage the nervous system. Short-term exposure to ethylene oxide may cause headaches, weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, eye and skin burns, and reproductive effects. Long-term exposure to ethylene oxide increases the risk of certain cancers including lymphoid cancer and breast cancer.

Sampling results posted by SCAQMD as recently as May 29, 2022, showed elevated emissions of ethylene oxide at Sterigenics and immediately adjacent to the facility continue to remain elevated (6.5 times higher than the State's reference level for cancer risk for workers). As of June 2, 2022, SCAQMD continues to conduct air

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monitoring at two locations near the Sterigenics buildings in Vernon and at one location near the community of Maywood. SCAQMD reports that ethylene oxide levels in the community are consistent with background levels.

SCAQMD has committed to taking action to require Sterigenics to reduce its harmful emissions, but given the ongoing compliance issues and health concerns, SCAQMD should require the company to temporarily shut down until it can operate safely. As stewards of County fiscal resources, it is the prerogative of this Board to direct our County resources to be spent with companies that comply with applicable laws and regulations and do not put the health of workers or community members at risk.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, to review the nature and terms of any existing contracts with Sterigenics and, to the extent legally permissible and feasible, terminate any existing contracts with Sterigenics;

I, FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct that all County departments and all entities for which this Board is the Governing Body, to extent legally permissible and feasible, shall refrain from entering into any new or amended contracts to purchase goods or services from Sterigenics until the South Coast Air Quality Management District resolves the Notice of Violation and the SCAQMD determines that the levels of ethylene oxide emissions from Sterigenics at all monitoring sites are at or below health risk levels for workers and off-site community members. County Counsel, in consultation with the Internal Services Department and the Chief Executive Office, shall report back to the Board in writing in sixty days on all actions taken to effectuate this resolution.

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